

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-7 were presented. Claims 6 and 7, which are withdrawn from consideration due to restriction and election of claims 1-5, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claims 1-5 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the Action asserts that the claims contain group language that is unclear. In response, claim 2 is amended for clarity to recite:

...one of the pair of terminals protrudes from the side provided with the circuit board and from a side not provided with the circuit board on the battery cell, and

the other of the pair of terminals is provided at a different location on the battery cell than that of the one of the pair of terminals.

Applicant submits that this language is clear and in compliance with 35 USC 112, and that the rejections should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a) as anticipated by, or alternatively obvious over, Hirota (JP 2002-260615). In response, applicant traverses the rejection and amends claim 1 to clarify distinctions relative to Hirota.

The present invention is directed to a battery cell 2 having a circuit board 3 and a connector 9 attached to the circuit board 3. A molded resin portion 4 encloses the circuit board 3 (FIG. 1). Conventionally, molded resin portions are formed separately on either side of the connector (page 2, line 5-8). However, in the present invention, a resin path 14 is provided between connector 9 and circuit board 3 such that the molded resin portion can be formed continuously via the resin path This

feature improves the manufacturing efficiency of the battery (FIG. 2, 4 and page 9, lines 10-15).

Page 4 of the Action asserts that Hirota forms a molded resin portion along both sides 6b of a connector 6, while leaving plug section 6a exposed (FIGs. 3 and 5). However, as seen in FIG. 3, Hirota does not provide a resin path between connector 6 and circuit board 5. Connector 6 is an enclosed and solid structure such that resin cannot flow under connector 6 and between circuit board 5. Resin can only flow along outside surface 6b of connector 6, since there is no space between connector 6 and circuit board 3 to form a resin path.

The present invention, by contrast, provides a hollow opening in connector 9 such that a resin path 14 can be formed that allows a molded resin portion to be continuously formed (FIG. 2 and 3). Claim 1 is amended to clarify this fundamental difference between the present invention and Hirota. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite that:

...the resin path is provided between the connector and the circuit board...

Since Hirota does not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1, it cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 1 or claims 2-5 dependent thereon. The rejections under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a) should therefore be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.

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Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No.
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Respectfully submitted,
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